Amendments to the Claims:
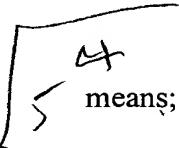
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:
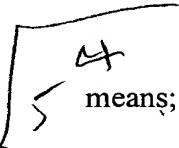
Listing of Claims:
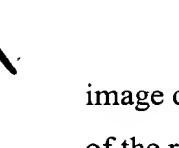
1. - 18. (Cancelled)
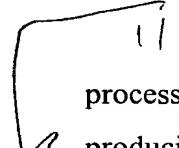
19. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

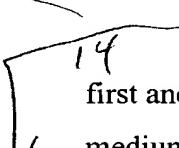reading means for reading a document and providing image data on the document as first image data;
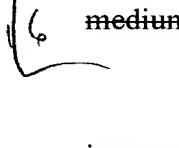
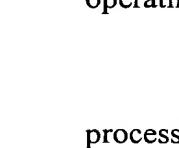image processing means for processing the first image data provided by the reading means;

image forming means for forming an image on ~~an image formation medium~~ a sheet of paper corresponding to input image data;

operating condition image producing means for producing image data as second image data, indicative of at least one of operating conditions which determine image quality of the reading means, the image processing means and the image forming means;

synthesizing means for synthesizing the first image data processed by the image processing means with the second image data produced by the operating condition image producing means;

means for controlling the image forming means to form an image corresponding to the first and second image data synthesized by the synthesizing means on the ~~image formation medium~~ sheet of paper;

designating means for designating whether or not the first image data obtained by the image processing means should be synthesized with the second image data produced by the operating condition image producing means; and

said synthesizing means synthesizes the first image data obtained by the image processing means with the second image data produced by the operating condition image producing means and provides resultant synthesized image data in a case where the

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designating means designates synthesis and provides only the first image data obtained by the image processing means in other cases.

20. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operating condition image producing means includes means for producing a character image data indicative of the operating conditions.

21. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operating condition image producing means includes means for producing a pattern code image data indicative of the operating conditions.

22. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operating condition image producing means includes means for producing an image data indicative of input conditions of the reading means.

23. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operating condition image producing means includes means for producing an image data indicative of a resolution and sampling rate of the reading means.

24. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operating condition image producing means includes means for producing an image data indicative of output conditions of the image forming means.

25. (Previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operating condition image producing means includes means for producing an image data indicative of processing conditions of the image processing means.

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